



FAX Cover Sheet

From: Robert S. Howden

TO: CHAIRMAN POWEN

Date: 7/8/04

Comments: PLEASE SEE ATTACHED



July 7, 2004

Chairman Michael Powell
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554
Via fax: (202) 418-0710

Dear Chairman Powell,

I am writing to urge you to support the pro-consumer position on WC Docket 03-133 by saying no to an exorbitant rate hike request by the regional Bell operating companies (RBOCs).

The RBOCs are trying to dramatically raise fees on telephone calls placed by consumers using pre-paid calling cards. If they succeed, many Americans may face fees that are up to twenty times higher than fees they pay today. With the prices of so many consumer goods and services on the rise, consumers don't need higher prices for phone calls too.

Calls made with calling cards, where a caller dials an 800-number and then the destination phone number, are already subject to interstate access fees and have no relationship to the RBOCs actual costs. Raising fees is not only unnecessary, it just doesn't make sense.

Any price hike of this nature will disproportionately punish low-income families, students and military personnel who depend on pre-paid calling cards as an affordable means of to stay in touch with family.

I hope you'll turn a deaf ear to the RBOCs' latest attempt to collect new fees and gouge consumers. Please embrace the pro-consumer position of WC Docket 03-133.

Sincerely,

Robert Howden
Texans for Economic Progress
3112 Windsor Road, Suite A-126
Austin, Texas 78703

cc: Kathleen Q. Abernathy
Commissioner

Michael J. Copps
Commissioner

Kevin J. Martin
Commissioner

Jonathan S. Adelstein
Commissioner

Texans for Economic Progress is an Austin-based, non-profit advocacy group that monitors the competitive process in key sectors of the Texas economy. The group works to promote public policies at the legislative and regulatory levels that foster telephone competition and benefit consumers through lower prices, better quality and greater choice.

July 7, 2004

Chairman Michael Powell
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20554

RE: WC Docket No. 03-133

Dear Chairman Powell:

Latino and other minority communities rely upon low-cost telecommunications services to accomplish many every day tasks, from looking for a job or affordable housing to staying in touch with family and friends. But pending before the FCC is a proposal that would introduce new charges and fees upon services upon which we depend, immediately harming millions of Latinos and other consumers nationwide.

I understand that the FCC is considering applying "in-state" access charges and other fees on certain prepaid calling card services. Many Latinos, particularly those on fixed incomes or those establishing a credit history, bank accounts and other means necessary to subscribe to local telephone service, rely upon these prepaid calling cards to stay connected at set affordable rates. Students, immigrants, senior citizens, and others face similar challenges.

As a result, prepaid calling cards are the only option available – without them, many consumers could, quite literally, be left without access to telephone service. Raising the price of prepaid calling cards will directly harm individuals who can least afford price increases.

Imposing in-state charges would amount to a substantial increase in the cost of prepaid calls, destroying the utility of calling cards to disadvantaged consumers. Allowing the large, local telephone companies to collect such charges, even when they do not sell the calling card to a customer, would drive up prices; thus making these services substantially less affordable. Please look out for consumers and refuse to impose new access charges and fees on prepaid calling card services.

Sincerely,

Erin O. Rivera
Virginia

ccs: Commissioner Michael Copps
Commissioner Kathleen Abernathy
Commissioner Kevin Martin
Commissioner Jonathan Adelstein
Senator *George Allen*
Senator *Pat Warner*
Congressperson

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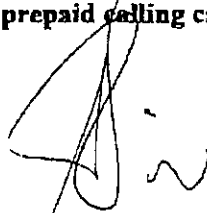
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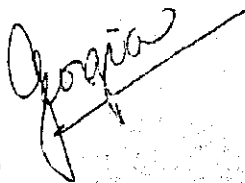
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I simply find it unimaginable that the FCC would impose new charges and fees on these cards. Some of the nation's largest telephone companies would be the largest beneficiaries of such charges. **The FCC should stand up for consumer interests over corporate gain by keeping affordable prepaid calling cards a priority.**

Sincerely,



ccs: Commissioner Michael Copps
Commissioner Kathleen Abernathy
Commissioner Kevin Martin
Commissioner Jonathan Adelstein
Senator *Sasky Chambers*
Senator *Belt Miller*
Congressperson



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Sincerely,

Eliza Rivers (South Carolina)

ccs: Commissioner Michael Copps
Commissioner Kathleen Abernathy
Commissioner Kevin Martin
Commissioner Jonathan Adelstein
Senator *Lindsey Graham*
Senator *Ernest Hollings*
Congressperson

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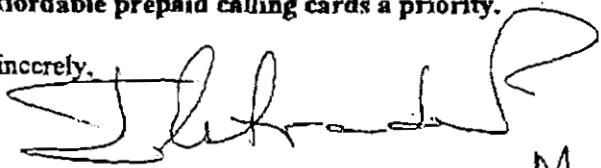
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Sincerely,



Maryland.

ccs: Commissioner Michael Copps
Commissioner Kathleen Abernathy
Commissioner Kevin Martin
Commissioner Jonathan Adelstein
Senator Barbara Mikulski
Senator Paul Sarbanes
Congressperson

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Sincerely,

Alvaro Garcia Colorado

ccs: Commissioner Michael Copps
Commissioner Kathleen Abernathy
Commissioner Kevin Martin
Commissioner Jonathan Adelstein
Senator *Wayne Allard*
Senator *Ben Campbell*
Congressperson

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Sincerely,

Charles F. Smith (K4)

ccs: Commissioner Michael Copps
Commissioner Kathleen Abernathy
Commissioner Kevin Martin
Commissioner Jonathan Adelstein
Senator *Jim Bunning*
Senator *Lizbeth McClure*
Congressperson

July 7, 2004

Chairman Michael Powell
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20554

RE: WC Docket No. 03-133

Dear Chairman Powell:


Military personnel stationed in the U.S. and all over the world rely heavily upon low-cost telecommunications services to keep in touch with family and friends back home. But pending before the FCC is a proposal that would introduce new charges and fees on these cards that we depend upon to stay connected, immediately harming the tens of thousands of American service men and women stationed worldwide.

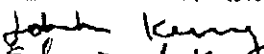

I understand that the FCC is considering applying "in-state" access charges and other fees on certain prepaid calling card services. American service personnel, particularly those who move frequently, rely upon these prepaid calling cards to keep in touch with their families at set, affordable rates.

As a result, prepaid calling cards are the only option available - without them, military personnel could, quite literally, be left without access to telephone service. Raising the price of prepaid calling cards will directly harm individuals who are most in need of vital phone service to keep their loved ones within reach.

Imposing in-state charges would amount to a substantial increase in the cost of prepaid calls, destroying the utility of calling cards for our service men and women. Please look out for our military personnel and refuse to impose new access charges and fees on prepaid calling card services.

Sincerely,

 (MA)

ccs: Commissioner Michael Copps
Commissioner Kathleen Abernathy
Commissioner Kevin Martin
Commissioner Jonathan Adelstein
Senator 
Senator 
Congressperson

July 7, 2004

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Sincerely,

Chris Martin PHK AZ

cc: Commissioner Michael Copps
Commissioner Kathleen Abernathy
Commissioner Kevin Martin
Commissioner Jonathan Adelstein
Senator *John McCain*
Senator *Jon Kyl*
Congressperson

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ccs: Commissioner Michael Copps
Commissioner Kathleen Abernathy
Commissioner Kevin Martin
Commissioner Jonathan Adelstein
Senator *Kay Hutchinson*
Senator *John Cornyn*
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Sincerely,

Carmen Mendez-Morales

ccs: Commissioner Michael Copps
Commissioner Kathleen Abernathy
Commissioner Kevin Martin
Commissioner Jonathan Adelstein
Senator *Barbara Mikulski*
Senator *Paul Sarbanes*
Congressperson

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Dear Chairman Powell:

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I understand that the FCC is considering applying "in-state" access charges and other fees on certain prepaid calling card services. Many Latinos, particularly those on fixed incomes or those establishing a credit history, bank accounts and other means necessary to subscribe to local telephone service, rely upon these prepaid calling cards to stay connected at set affordable rates. Students, immigrants, senior citizens, and others face similar challenges.

As a result, prepaid calling cards are the only option available – without them, many consumers could, quite literally, be left without access to telephone service. Raising the price of prepaid calling cards will directly harm individuals who can least afford price increases.

Imposing in-state charges would amount to a substantial increase in the cost of prepaid calls, destroying the utility of calling cards to disadvantaged consumers. Allowing the large, local telephone companies to collect such charges, even when they do not sell the calling card to a customer, would drive up prices; thus making these services substantially less affordable. Please look out for consumers and refuse to impose new access charges and fees on prepaid calling card services.

Sincerely,

Adriana Cervantes

ccs: Commissioner Michael Copps
Commissioner Kathleen Abernathy
Commissioner Kevin Martin
Commissioner Jonathan Adelstein
Senator *Kay Hutchinson*
Senator *John Cornyn*
Congressperson

TX

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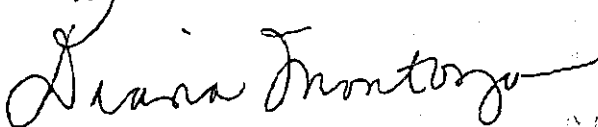
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ccs: Commissioner Michael Copps
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Commissioner Kevin Martin
Commissioner Jonathan Adelstein
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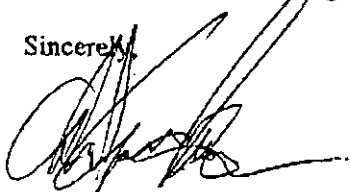
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Carless Buford

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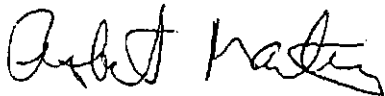
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The FCC should not impose new access charges and fees upon prepaid calling cards. If you move to increase the cost of these cards, you will simply drive up the cost for minority or disadvantaged individuals to stay in touch in their communities.

The Latino community is particularly sensitive to any price increase for pre-paid calling cards; approximately 43% of Latino households use them. Indeed, half of the households with incomes below \$20,000 have used prepaid cards. Pre-paid calling cards are so prevalent in part because they save consumers money.

With gas and milk prices already holding fixed and low income consumers hostage, we should not be faced with rising telephone service costs as well. In particular, many low-income households who are on fixed incomes depend entirely upon prepaid service because they cannot meet the credit rating or hefty deposit requirements that local phone companies insist upon before getting a phone. With prepaid cards, consumers can make calls from payphones or the telephones of family members and neighbors. We can use these cards to stay "connected" as we look for jobs, hunt for houses, or schedule many of the other daily appointments that we all have.

I simply find it unimaginable that the FCC would impose new charges and fees on these cards. Some of the nation's largest telephone companies would be the largest beneficiaries of such charges. **The FCC should stand up for consumer interests over corporate gain by keeping affordable prepaid calling cards a priority.**

Sincerely,



ccs: Commissioner Michael Copps
Commissioner Kathleen Abernathy
Commissioner Kevin Martin
Commissioner Jonathan Adelstein
Senator
Senator
Congressperson

July 7, 2004

Chairman Michael Powell
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20554

RE: WC Docket No. 03-133

Dear Chairman Powell:

Latino and other minority communities rely upon low-cost telecommunications services to accomplish many every day tasks, from looking for a job or affordable housing to staying in touch with family and friends. But pending before the FCC is a proposal that would introduce new charges and fees upon services upon which we depend, immediately harming millions of Latinos and other consumers nationwide.

I understand that the FCC is considering applying "in-state" access charges and other fees on certain prepaid calling card services. Many Latinos, particularly those on fixed incomes or those establishing a credit history, bank accounts and other means necessary to subscribe to local telephone service, rely upon these prepaid calling cards to stay connected at set affordable rates. Students, immigrants, senior citizens, and others face similar challenges.

As a result, prepaid calling cards are the only option available -- without them, many consumers could, quite literally, be left without access to telephone service. Raising the price of prepaid calling cards will directly harm individuals who can least afford price increases.

Imposing in-state charges would amount to a substantial increase in the cost of prepaid calls, destroying the utility of calling cards to disadvantaged consumers. Allowing the large, local telephone companies to collect such charges, even when they do not sell the calling card to a customer, would drive up prices; thus making these services substantially less affordable. Please look out for consumers and refuse to impose new access charges and fees on prepaid calling card services.

Sincerely,

Isabel - Leguado 0004

ccs: Commissioner Michael Copps
Commissioner Kathleen Abernathy
Commissioner Kevin Martin
Commissioner Jonathan Adelstein
Senator
Senator
Congressperson

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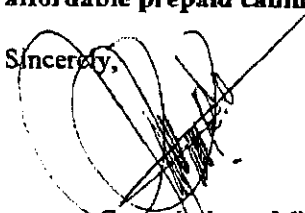
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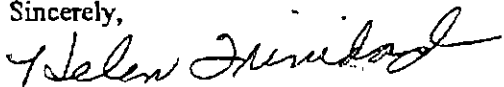
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Sincerely,

Esther Degraues

02150

ccs: Commissioner Michael Copps
Commissioner Kathleen Abernathy
Commissioner Kevin Martin
Commissioner Jonathan Adelstein
Senator
Senator
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July 7, 2004

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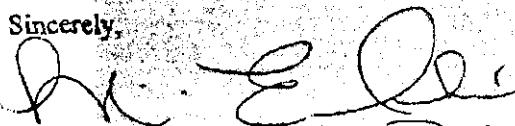
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Washington, D.C.

ccs: Commissioner Michael Copps
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Commissioner Kevin Martin
Commissioner Jonathan Adelstein
Senator
Senator
Congressperson *Elaine Hohn - Vinton*

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Zenobia Walker
Texas

ccs: Commissioner Michael Copps
Commissioner Kathleen Abernathy
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Commissioner Jonathan Adelstein
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Senator *John Cornyn*
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Chris Gutierrez

TX

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Commissioner Kevin Martin
Commissioner Jonathan Adelstein
Senator *Kay Bailey Hutchison*
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Senator John Corrao
Congressperson

TX
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